



District News

March 2026 Edition

A Visit to Remember

Distinguished Club Program

District 60 Annual Conference

Membership Renewal

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District 60



District News

March 2026 Edition

One Fee. Infinite Returns.

As the Program Quality Director of Toastmasters District 60, two philosophies have shaped my journey.

- **Toastmasters is what you want it to be, when you want it.**
- **We pay Toastmasters to do the work we do here.**

When I first joined Toastmasters, my goal was simple. I wanted to improve audience engagement. Through prepared speeches, Table Topics, and meeting roles, I learned how to command attention and connect with a room. **With practice, even routine roles became opportunities to engage and communicate with impact.**

As my confidence grew, opportunities followed. I was invited to emcee the District Annual Conference, a defining moment that revealed the depth of talent and possibility within our community. I found mentors, built lasting friendships, and witnessed leadership in action.

From there, I stepped into club and district leadership, learning sponsorship and public relations while supporting District Conferences. Those skills later helped me articulate the Toastmasters vision more effectively as Club Growth Director, where our team chartered eight new clubs in District 60.

Today, as Program Quality Director, I am learning something even bigger. Scalability. How to build systems that elevate not just individuals, but an entire district. Each challenge becomes a learning opportunity that strengthens our organization.

That brings me to my second philosophy. When asked whether I am paid for the time and energy I invest in Toastmasters, my answer is simple. I pay for the opportunity to learn by doing. The membership fee is fixed. The return depends entirely on how we choose to participate.

We can attend passively or we can lean in, complete Pathways projects, take on leadership roles, volunteer at the district level, and build meaningful networks. **Toastmasters is not an expense. It is a place to experiment, refine, and grow.**

For our members across District 60, growth is not years away. It is one decision away.

What will you choose to make Toastmasters be for you now?



Yukta
Program Quality Director



District Director

District 60

A Visit to Remember

Have you ever wondered what's possible when you fully embrace your Toastmasters journey? We'll see it firsthand during our Board Visit in April from Andrew Horberry — one of our own serving on the Toastmasters International Board of Directors.

Our District has a proud history of leadership at regional and international levels, and Andrew's service continues that legacy. His journey shows how dedication, skill, and passion developed in our clubs can create meaningful impact beyond our meetings.

During his visit, Andrew will connect with members across several clubs, attend key District events, and honour a corporation for outstanding support of Toastmasters. Each moment is an opportunity to share stories, celebrate achievements, and raise the profile of our District in the wider community. A Board Visit is more than a formal event — it's a chance to engage with international leadership, gain insights, and showcase the excellence and commitment of our members.

Let's welcome Andrew with energy, pride, and enthusiasm, making this visit an inspiration for every member to explore what's possible through Toastmasters — a visit we will remember for a long time to come.



Leadership Candidates! - Mark your calendars!

Find out who will be the nominated candidates for District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director and the six Division Directors on March 22 by visiting the **District 60 Website** on that day! Learn who will be on the ballot for election at the District Council Meeting in April.



David Veights, DTM
District Leadership Committee Chair



The Leadership Edge

Thank you to all those who have expressed interest in the Leadership Edge Program!

We are now selecting the next cohort for early April. If you are interested, please email "lead@toastmasters60.com". This will be an excellent opportunity to enhance your leadership skills, and help you understand and achieve your full potential in all that you do whether it be personal, within your community or at work.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Cheers,

Andrew Mertens, DTM Leadership Engagement Chair

David Veights, DTM District Leadership Committee Chair

Shubha Amba, DTM District Director

District 60





District 60

George Keenan Award Nomination 2026



**The nomination deadline on
March 15, 2026**

The George Keenan Award is a District 60–specific honour recognizing exceptional service and dedication to Toastmasters.

You may nominate a past district leader who you feel meets these qualifications by:

- Completing the **George Keenan Award Nomination Form**.
- Talking to your nominee to obtain any additional insights into past contributions,
- Soliciting testimonials or additional information to support the nomination, (optional)
- Sending your submission to **GK@toastmasters60.com**

For more information visit the **webpage of George Keenan award**.





Program Quality Director

District 60

Focus on Distinguished Goals

As we move further into the second half of the Toastmasters year, this is the ideal time for clubs across **District 60** to refocus on their **Distinguished Club Program** (DCP) goals. The DCP is not just a recognition program, it is a proven framework for club quality.

The 10 goals span four key areas: **Education, Membership, Training, and Administration**. When members complete **Pathways** levels, officers attend training, clubs grow sustainably, and administrative deadlines are met, the result is a strong and vibrant club experience.

Achieving **five goals earns Distinguished** status, **seven earns Select Distinguished**, **nine earns President's Distinguished** and **ten earns Smedley's Distinguished** (with at least 25 members). But beyond titles, these goals reflect something more important: **member engagement and leadership growth**.

Now is the time to review your **Club Success Plan**, identify gaps, and take intentional action. Small, focused steps in March can make a significant difference by June.

Call to Action

- ✓ Review your club's current **DCP** progress this week
- ✓ Identify one education and one membership goal to prioritize in March
- ✓ Engage your members in a shared plan to finish strong
- ✓ Reach out to your **Area Director** and **District leaders** for support

New to Toastmasters? Refer to the **Distinguished Club Program Manual** to get a deeper understanding and appreciation for the 100+ years old organization called Toastmasters.





Club Officer Training Round 2

District 60

Club Officer Training Round 2 – A Remarkable Success

Round 2 of Club Officer Training across **Toastmasters District 60** has been an incredible success, with **more than 650 Club Officers trained**. This level of engagement reflects the dedication of our leaders and their commitment to delivering quality club experiences.

Our sessions were filled with practical insights, collaboration, and renewed energy as officers sharpened their skills to better support members. A heartfelt thank you to all the trainers for generously sharing their expertise and time. Your preparation and passion truly elevated the learning experience.

Andrew Mertens, Johanne Von Zuben, Bruce Laing, Roman Smolak, Ved Singal, Larry St. Aubin, Nigel Noronha, Elton Brown, Sabrina Vashishtha, Rick Bartel, Kristina Greco, Anvesh Saxena, Stephen Reingold, Cate Posner, Louise Bark, Wendy Chappel, Gin Aldeguer, Angelina So, Orest Nahacziwec.

Special appreciation to **Stephen Schroeder, DTM** and **David Veights, DTM** for leading impactful leadership sessions on Pathways and Inclusive Leadership. These conversations strengthened not only our operational excellence but also our culture of belonging.

Kudos as well to each of our six Division Directors - **Yolanda Haywood, Jen Tse, Sethu Kotharamth, Frankie Law, Pandora Chung and David Cheung** - for organizing seamless training sessions and bringing their unique leadership styles to the forefront. Your commitment made this round both engaging and effective.

Please note that attendance credits are being processed in batches. If you do not yet see your training credit reflected, we kindly ask for your patience. Our team is working diligently to ensure every eligible officer receives proper credit. Thank you for prioritizing growth, leadership, and excellence. Together, we continue to raise the standard of quality across District 60.

Please [click here](#) for a detailed report of attendance.



District 60

District 60 - Beta Testing - Proud Moment

Our Beta Testing session on February 28 was a proud moment for **Toastmasters District 60** as we are one of the few districts in the world who were chosen to run this session. Thank you to the trainers who made special efforts to get trained and deliver a world-class session - **Ken Weinberg, DTM; Carrie Webster, DTM; Angela Ho, DTM; Bruce Laing, DTM; Johanne Von Zuben, DTM, PDD; and Andrew Mertens, DTM, PDD, Prince Polynice, DTM and Lois Margolin, DTM.**

Special thanks to **Jeff Sobel, DTM**, for his support as co-leader, and to **Anvesh Saxena** for initiating and supporting the special certificates presented to participants.

Most importantly, thank you to every member who attended and shared thoughtful feedback to help Toastmasters International strengthen and refine the program. Your contribution truly makes a difference.



Individual Mentor Program

A few months ago, we launched the District 60 Individual Mentor Program to help members connect with mentors from anywhere across the District. The program has already attracted strong interest from both mentors and mentees, and the first set of participants have now been successfully connected.

We're excited to continue matching more members to support their personal and professional development. If you're interested in enrolling as a mentor or mentee, **click here** to sign up.

Have questions? Feel free to reach out to Yukta, Program Quality Director, directly at **pqd@toastmasters60.com**.





Conference - From Spark to Spotlight

District 60



District 60 Toastmasters Conference

Saturday April 25 and Sunday April 26, 2026
Venue: Canoe Landing Community Recreation Centre,
45 Fort York Blvd, Toronto, ON

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Guess Who's Taking the Stage?

District 60, it's time for a little fun!

We have an incredible speaker lined up for our upcoming conference, and we're giving you the chance to guess who it is.

Here are your clues:

Clue #1: Currently serving as Region 5 International Director at Toastmasters International

Clue #2: Served as District Director (2023-24) of Toastmasters District 60

Clue #3: Proud member of District 60 since 2005

This leader has inspired members across clubs, divisions and districts... and now at the international level. From local stages to the global platform, their journey is a testament to growth and service.

So... who do you think it is?

Find out on the next page...



District 60



Andrew Horberry, DTM

is Region 5 International Director at Toastmasters International and Past District Director (2023–24) of Toastmasters District 60. A Toastmaster since 2005, he joined to “speak Canadian” — and discovered a global community rooted in civility, leadership, and connection across borders.

He is taking the stage at the District 60 Annual Conference. Are you ready to hear his journey from local leader to global ambassador?

From Spark to Spotlight: District 60 Conference 2026

This year’s conference promises inspiration, education, connection, and celebration - bringing together members from across the District to learn, compete, and grow together.

We are proud to feature two exceptional keynote speakers:

- **Aaron Beverly** – 2019 World Champion of Public Speaking, internationally acclaimed for his masterful storytelling and captivating stage presence.
- **Andrew Horberry, DTM** – Past District Director of District 60 and currently serving as Region 5 International Director, offering both District pride and global leadership insight.

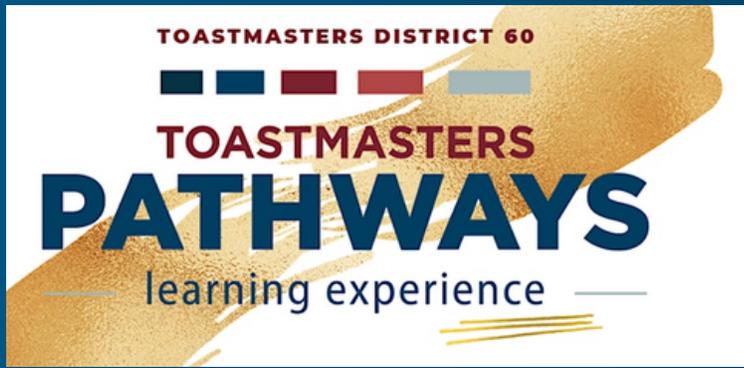
Whether you are attending educational sessions, speech contests, networking, or the energy of being surrounded by fellow Toastmasters, this conference will truly take you from spark to spotlight.

Good news! Our *Early Bird pricing* has been extended until March 31. Don't miss this opportunity to secure your spot at a special rate.

Join us as we celebrate excellence, leadership, and the incredible community that is District 60. We can't wait to see you there!



District 60



Moving Ahead with Pathways

Success in Toastmasters is measured by your ability to experiment and learn from each new experience. Levels 3, 4 and 5 have a large number of electives, any of which can be used to try something different.

Pathways Challenge Buster

Sell a Product

- Create an imaginary product or service (or use a real one).
- Skillfully use the four steps in a sales presentation: attention, self-interest, desire, action.
- Be able to handle objections and close a prospective buyer.

Suitable Level 3 projects: Connect with Your Audience, Creating Effective Visual Aids

Crisis Management Speech

- Pretend you're a CEO giving a press conference in response to a company crisis.
- Take impromptu questions from your fellow members pretending to be hostile journalists.
- Maintain your composure and a positive image of the company.

Level 4 elective: Managing a Difficult Audience (required in Pres. Mastery)



Stephen Schroeder, DTM
Pathways Chair



Club Growth Director

District 60

Honing the Craft That Changes Lives

This past month many of us have been glued to screens watching sporting events, whether the Super Bowl or the Winter Olympics. We witnessed marvelous feats of skill, strength and agility which was the result of countless hours of honing of a craft, whether football, speed skating or hockey.

As Toastmasters, we too are honing **our own craft consisting of public speaking and leadership**. I have been blessed to have met so many of you over the over the years, and especially over the past 7 months, whether at your Club, a District event, or at a Committee meeting. I have witnessed your **potential**, your **power**, as well as your **presence** as Toastmasters. I have witnessed your **commitment to your craft and the impact you have on your Club, your Corporation and your Committee**. It is humbling for me to bear witness to your dedication to improving your own lives and the lives of those around you.

I have witnessed **the power of Toastmasters to influence** lives from shy students who become emboldened to confidently stride into job interviews, or colleagues in my workplace who have climbed the corporate ladder and attribute the climb directly to skillsets developed as Toastmasters.

Join me and renew your membership today. Together, let's continue to make this world a little bit of a better place.

-Dave Bachan



What about you?

Renew now!





District 60

Congratulations to the following clubs celebrating Club Charter anniversaries:

March Club Anniversaries

- Goodyear - 45 years
- Deer Park - 38 years
- Royal Class - 37 years
- LCBO - 27 years
- The Communicators Toastmasters Club (BMO) - 21 years
- Ebony - 20 years
- Downtown Achievers - 18 years
- Eglinton-Yonge - 18 years
- 1 For U KSS - 17 years
- Deloitte Toronto - 14 years
- Orange Nation - 9 years
- Smart City Speakers - 6 years
- Inspiring Women - 4 years
- Capgemini Voices for Sustainable Futures - 2 years
- Munich Re Canada (MRC) - 2 years
- SunnySci Speakers - 2 years



Club success is Team success. The District needs you.

Share your valuable Toastmasters skillsets with others.



Club Coaches, Club Mentors and Club Sponsors wanted!

Would you like to share your valuable Toastmasters skillsets with others? There are clubs out there that could use your expertise. Please reach out to Dave Bachan, Club Growth Director, at cdg@toastmasters60.org.



District 60

Know an organization that could benefit from Toastmasters? Refer them!

If your lead results in a demo meeting, enjoy dinner for four!

CLUB LEADS INCENTIVE

DISTRICT 60
Serving Toronto, Canada



Club Lead Referrals Wanted!

Would your community or workplace benefit from a Toastmasters club? Send us a Lead. If your lead converts to a demo meeting (a step before charter), you and your family of four are eligible for dinner courtesy of District 60.

Please reach out to Dave Bachan, Club Growth Director at cdg@toastmasters60.org.

Let's Get Reel - Toastimonials

Has Toastmasters helped you grow as a speaker or leader?
Has it made a difference in your career or community?
We'd love to share your story.

Send us your social media handles to be featured on District 60's socials.

Reach out to Angelina So, Public Relations Manager at PRM@toastmasters60.com for more information.

Laverne Brown, PM5, MS1
Capgemini Voices for Sustainable Futures
ART Advanced Royal

that said first time attendee.

DISTRICT 60
Serving Toronto, Canada

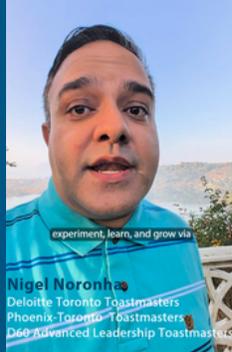


Toastmasters has increased my confidence and boosted my career.

experiment, learn, and grow via

Nigel Noronha
Deloitte Toronto Toastmasters
Phoenix Toronto Toastmasters
D60 Advanced Leadership Toastmasters

DISTRICT 60
Serving Toronto, Canada



Natalie Thomas, DTM
ART Advanced Royal Toastmasters

0.0s

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David He, VC2
Rotman Commerce Toastmasters
"Hide the Vegetables" technique

55.6s

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Mari Hanano
Inspiring Women Toastmasters
"The skills don't stay in the meeting room."

DISTRICT 60
Serving Toronto, Canada






District 60

Has your club hosted a **Moments of Truth** (MOT) workshop – it’s a great way to do a deep dive into the successes and challenges of a club.

The following clubs have recently conducted an MOT:
Humber Lakeshore, Shellbusters, St Clair Public Service Speakers, Scotia MicMasters

Contact your CGD if you would like an MOT conducted at your club
cdg@toastmasters60.org.



Tag It. Repost It. Let’s Go!

Help District 60 grow and get rewarded! Tag @District 60 and repost District event flyers across your socials.

Every tag & repost boosts visibility, drives attendance, and supports our clubs, and yes, it all counts toward District rewards.

A great appreciation to all of you who regularly promote the District:

Sun Life Speakers Corner
ART - Advanced Royal Toastmasters
Eglinton-Yonge Toastmasters
Phoenix-Toronto Toastmasters
Trinity Toastmasters
Grosvenor Toastmasters
SALUT
Grosvenor Toastmasters
Inspiring Voices Toastmasters

Mari Haruno
Roman Smolak
Adrian Carolli
Sabrina Vashistha
Wendy Chappel
Bruce Laing
Laverne Brown
Jidnyasa Joshi
Nigel Noronha



Sharel O’Connell
Newars Alkasser
Dana Starowicz
Leah Xing





Public Relations Manager

District 60

Do you **want** to be a part of the District 60 Public Relations Committee 2026/2027?

The District 60 Public Relations Committee helps share the stories, achievements, and impact of our Toastmasters community. As we look ahead to the 2026/2027 program year, we invite members who are interested in communications, storytelling, or supporting district initiatives to express interest in serving.

No prior PR experience is required. If you are curious, want to learn more, or simply have questions, we welcome the conversation.

If you are interested or simply have questions, please reach out to PRM@toastmasters.com to start the conversation.

Spotlight Your Club on District 60's LinkedIn

District 60 will feature club events on LinkedIn twice this month:

- Mar 10 – events happening in March
- Mar 20 – events happening in March & April

Want your club featured?

Submit your event poster by 12:00 p.m. on the 9th or 19th

Email: PRM@toastmasters60.com



Eye-Catching Posters Made Easy — Fully Brand-Compliant

To access and use Toastmasters' Canva templates:

1. Sign up for a free **Canva account** (if you do not already have one).
2. Send an email to prm@toastmasters60.com to request access to the Toastmasters Canva templates.
3. You will receive an email notification once the file has been shared with you on Canva.
4. Open the shared file, **make a copy**, and save your own version.
5. **Use your own copy** to edit text and replace images as needed for your club's event.



District 60



Shubha Amba
District Director



Yukta
Program Quality Director

DISTRICT 60

Serving Toronto, Canada



Dave Bachan
Club Growth Director



Angelina So
Public Relations Manager



Don't forget, District 60 is here to support you with:

- **Tag District 60's** social media handle on your post! We are your biggest fan
- District-sponsored **Meetup accounts** to boost club visibility
- **WhatsApp groups** for leaders to connect, share, and grow together.



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